

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04180 01 OF 02 260802Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
AID-05 DHA-05 /104 W  
-----066145 260813Z /12

P R 251545Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4991  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 277  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4180

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE  
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION - AUGUST 19-25

REF: BEIRUT 4069 (DTG 191210Z AUG 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK, NUMBER OF LEBANESE WERE KILLED  
DURING SHOOTING IN SHUF. THERE WERE TWO BOMBINGS  
IN BEIRUT, ONE RESULTING IN MORE THAN 30 CASUALTIES.  
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MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON CONTINUED TO BE  
TENSE AND CONFUSING. LEBANESE AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINI-  
STERS MET. LEBANON ASKED ARAB LEAGUE TO EXTEND MANDATE OF  
ARAB DETERRENT FORCES (ADF) FOR ANOTHER 6 MONTHS.  
INFORMED SOURCE SAID ABU DHABI FUND HAS COM-  
MITTED APPROXIMATELY \$17.4 MILLION TO PROJECTS  
IN LEBANON. FINANCE MINISTER FARID RAFAEL ANNOUNCED

THAT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR INSURANCE OF INVESTMENTS  
WOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS IN EARLY OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

2. SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN SHUF.

A NUMBER OF LEBANESE WERE KILLED AUGUST 21 DURING  
GUN BATTLE BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND DRUZE IN VILLAGE  
OF BRIH. ON SAME DAY IN SHUF, THERE WAS SHOOTING  
BETWEEN CHRISTIANS IN AL MTULLAH AND SUNNIS IN BSABA,  
AND AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED. ARAB DETERRENT  
FORCE (ADF) SUBSEQUENTLY RE-ENFORCED ITS UNITS IN  
SHUF AND ARRESTED 27 SUSPECTS. AS OF AUGUST 24, SITUATION  
REMAINED TENSE (SEE BEIRUT 4170 AND PRECEEDING).

3. TWO BOMBINGS IN BEIRUT.

ON AUGUST 24, EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WENT OFF ON COAST  
ROAD IN FRONT OF AUB, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.  
ON AUGUST 25 SECOND DEVICE WENT OFF IN DOWNTOWN  
MARTYR'S SQUARE, WHERE MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE WERE  
WOUNDED AND AT LEAST TWO KILLED, ACCORDING TO  
EMBASSY SOURCES. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY EVIDENCE ON  
WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE, LOCAL OBSERVERS SPECULATE,  
BUT HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION, THAT BOMBS WERE  
CHRISTIAN RETALIATION FOR SHOOTINGS IN SHUF ON  
AUGUST 21 (SEE BEIRUT 4171).  
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4. FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON.

MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON CONTINUED TO  
BE TENSE AND CONFUSING. LATEST REPORTS INDICATED HEAVY  
ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRING BY BOTH SIDES. DESPITE  
REPORT ON RADIO ISRAEL ON AUGUST 22 THAT PALESTINIANS  
HAD LAUNCHED TANK ATTACK ON ALMA ASH SHAAB, WE HAD  
NO INDICATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT GROUND ACTION SINCE  
UNSUCCESSFUL PROBE BY PALESTINIANS TOWARDS DEIR AL MIMAS  
LAST WEEK (SEE BEIRUT 4102).

5. BOUTROS AND KHADDAM MEET.

LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS AND  
SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM MET IN  
CHTAURA ON AUGUST 24. ALSO PRESENT WERE LEBANESE  
ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY, SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF  
HIKMAT SHEHABI, AND ADF COMMANDER SAMI KHATIB. AN NAHAR  
COLUMNIST WROTE THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON "MUTUAL  
WITHDRAWALS" FROM SOUTH. BOUTROS TOLD PRESS THAT  
MEETING HAD FOCUSED ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF IMPL-

MENTATION OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON.  
HE REITERATED THAT SHTAURA AGREEMENT WAS "NOT  
ALTERNATIVE TO CAIRO ACCORD" BUT "DETAILED  
TIMETABLE" FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. EARLIER IN  
WEEK, LEBANESE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT TRIPARTITE  
COMMITTEE HAD MET IN BEIRUT ON AUGUST 18 AND DECIDED  
THAT APPLICATION OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BEGIN  
FOR 15 DAYS (SEE BEIRUT 4137).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 4180

6. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCE.

LEBANON HAS ASKED ARAB LEAGUE TO EXTEND MANDATE OF ADF  
FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS. (PRESENT MANDATE EXPIRES OCTOBER  
27.) REQUEST FOR EXTENSION COMES AMIDST REPORTS OF ADF  
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. PHALANGE DAILY AL-ALMAL REPORTED

AUGUST 22 THAT ADF HAD \$100 MILLION DEFICIT. SYRIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TOLD PRESS AUGUST 24 THAT  
DAMASCUS WAS SPENDING \$75 TO \$80 MILLION PER MONTHS TO  
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MAINTAIN ITS FORCES IN LEBANON.

7. ABU DHABI FUND AID.

ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCE, ABU DHABI FUND HAS COMMITTED  
APPROXIMATELY \$17.4 MILLION TO PROJECTS IN LEBANON,  
BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

\$6.95 MILLION FOR ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS, AND  
\$10.3 MILLION FOR FOURTH BASIN OF BEIRUT PORT.

THESE LOANS CARRY 4 PERCENT INTEREST AND ARE REPAYABLE IN  
20 YEARS WITH FIVE YEAR GRACE PERIOD. LEBANON HAS  
ALSO REQUESTED FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, BUT  
FUND HAS MADE NO COMMITMENTS (SEE ABU DHABI 2386).

8. INVESTMENT INSURANCE ORGANIZATION.

FINANCE MINISTER FARIS RAPHAEL ANNOUNCED AUGUST 19  
THAT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR INSURANCE OF INVESTMENTS  
WOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS IN EARLY OCTOBER (SEE A-09, APRIL  
23, 1977). ESTABLISHED BY DECREE LAW IN JANUARY,  
ORGANIZATION INSURES INVESTORS AGAINST NON-COMMERCIAL  
RISKS, INCLUDING WAR, AND IS CONSIDERED BY GOVERNMENT  
TO BE ONE OF KEY MEASURES NEEDED TO STIMULATE LEBANON'S  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY.  
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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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